

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully extend their appreciation for the time extended to applicants' attorney in a telephone interview on July 10, 2006. Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject matter in light of the remarks which follow are respectfully requested.

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Claims 1 - 20 are currently pending in the application and are under consideration.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the electrolyte as being sulfuric acid and the lignin as being coniferyl alcohol. This should satisfy the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection recited in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Examiner's rejection. Claims 6 and 7 are canceled and this should satisfy the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection in paragraph 10 of the Examiner's rejection.

Cited reference by Lyons et al (WO97/47720) relates to a disclosure of a lignin that is formulated as an aqueous dispersion containing a latex for use as coatings or a water vapor barrier for use on roll wraps and the like. This reference does not disclose or anticipate the subject invention which is directed to the use of a coniferyl alcohol lignin in a sulfuric acid electrolyte in an electrochemical lead-acid battery.

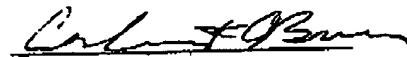
Claim 4 is amended to be dependent on Claim 1 and recites that the battery can be discharged at a rate of 0.3C for at least five minutes.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are canceled.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited..

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this Amendment or the application in general, please contact the undersigned at (203) 966-2055.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cornelius F. O'Brien  
Attorney for Applicants